

# **DNREC Division of Parks & Recreation to offer free admission to Delaware State Parks and the Brandywine Zoo on Black Friday**

**DOVER** – DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation, and Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), invite the public to #OptOutside this Black Friday by visiting Delaware State Parks. This year, visitors can enjoy free entry to 15 state parks on Black Friday, Nov. 24, and the Brandywine Zoo is joining in on the outdoor fun and will also be waiving admission all day.

"The 'Opt Outside' event has become a tradition at DNREC's Delaware State Parks, and the numbers of visitors are increasing each year," said DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin. "Between the Brandywine Zoo and 15 parks across the state, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Those willing to forego marathon shopping and opt instead for a day of hiking, biking, and adventuring will find more than 100 miles of trails to explore throughout Delaware, spectacular locations for bird and wildlife watching, scenic beaches, and much more."

The Opt Outside movement, started by REI in 2015, encourages families and friends across the nation to ditch the retail madness and get outdoors on Black Friday. The 16 million-member outdoor co-op sets an example by shutting its doors, and giving its 12,000 employees a paid day off.

This is the third year that DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation will be participating in the event, along with more

than 700 organizations and seven million people nationwide.

All Delaware State Parks' gates will open at 8 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 24, with the exception of Fort Delaware State Park, which is closed for the season. In addition, park offices will be closed. The Brandywine Zoo will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The public can use the hashtag #OptOutside on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to show support and invite family and friends to join the movement.

Visit [destateparks.com](http://destateparks.com) for park locations and more fun ideas on how to get outside on Black Friday.

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